

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ORAN 00011 251536Z
ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-02 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OES-07 DOE-11
SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /050 W
-----005489 260604Z /17

R 251345Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL ORAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0057
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ORAN 0011

DEPT PASS EXIM NORRIS AND BECKER

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, BENC, AG
SUB: LNG-1 INAUGURAL

REF: ALGIERS 0239

1. BOTH CONSULATE SOURCES AND VISIT TO ARZEW/BETHIOUA WITH DON
HESTER ON JANUARY 24 CONFIRM THAT SONATRACH DECISION TO HOLD INAU-
GURATION CEREMONY FOR TRAIN ONE OF LNG-1 ON FEBRUARY 21 MAY HAVE
BEEN TAKEN WITHOUT MUCH CONSULTATION WITH EL PASO AND BECHTEL THERE.

2. PRESENT FACTS ARE THAT WHILE BECHTEL HAS BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE
SOME LIQUIFIED GAS, TRAIN ONE HAS NOT YET PASSED EITHER ITS THREE
OR SEVEN-DAY TESTS FOR COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION AND HAS NOT YET ACHI-
EVED MORE THAN 40 PERCENT OF ITS PRODUCTION CAPACITY FOR ANY PERIOD.
PLANT WAS COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN DURING OUR VISIT. WE WERE TOLD THAT
COOLING PROCESS HAS NEVER BEEN FULLY UNDER CONTROL. MAIN PROBLEM
IS LEAKAGE OF SALT WATER WHICH THREATENS BOILERS, BUT THERE ARE
ALSO OTHER SNAGS.

3. ABOVE IS NOT TO SAY THAT CEREMONY PERHAPS MIS-TIMED, BUT ONLY
TO WARN THAT BECHTEL MAY, OR MAY NOT, BE PRODUCING LUQUIFIED GAS
AT LNG-1 ON FEBRUARY 21.

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4. WE WILL SEEK TO MONITOR ARZEW/BETHIOUA DEVELOPMENTS AS CLOSELY
AS POSSIBLE AND KEEP INTERESTED PARTIES ADVISED.HEYNIGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INAUGURATION, LPG, ROLLING STOCK
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ORAN00011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780038-0831
Format: TEL
From: ORAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780124/aaaaaudz.tel
Line Count: 58
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2acba1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 ALGIERS 239
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3716910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LNG-1 INAUGURAL
TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, BENC, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2acba1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014